

Environmental Loans E-Bulletin

MAY 2014

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Western Basin of the Chippewa Flowage,
Sawyer County, 1997

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The Environmental Loans E-Bulletin is written by staff in the WI DNR Environmental Loans Section to provide up-to-date information on both the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. These E-Bulletins will be sent out periodically to alert you to upcoming deadlines, highlight program changes and provide assistance on topics that need clarification. The E-Bulletin replaces the “Updates” which have been used in the past to get timely information to our customers.

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Changes to SDWLP Application Form

We are revising and making time-saving changes to the Financial Assistance Application form for the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. The EL section is currently testing the electronic functionality of the form. Once approved, it will have extended rights which allow it to be filled out electronically, saved, and printed using Adobe Reader version 8 or higher. Mid May is when we anticipate having the improved form online for everyone to use. We will send out an email notification when it is available online. New features include:

- You will be able to save the form to your personal computer using Adobe Reader version 8 or higher. You will be able to conveniently (and repeatedly) save the form as you fill it out.
- Automatic calculations for totals, percentages, ratios, and other arithmetical formulas that will save you time and increase accuracy. The Project Budget Sheet instructions have been updated.
- New page called “Non-core Cost Budget Sheet and Instructions.” For more info about policy changes to contingency and de minimus costs:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/SystemWideCosts.pdf>
- New section added with questions regarding Environmental/ Archeological/Historical (E/A/H) Review.

If you have questions regarding the application form for the SDWL program, please contact Mary (E) Wagner at marye.wagner@wi.gov or (608) 267-7475.

Heads Up! Our E-Bulletin will have a new format this summer going forward. We're working on improving readability and making the newsletter printer friendly (uses less ink). We'll be trying out new areas (i.e. Success Stories, Q&A, etc.) so please be patient while we improve this informative resource.

WI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL LOANS PROGRAM



Limited “Non-core” Project Costs Allowed for SFY 2015 SDWLP Applications

The Environmental Loans Section is implementing a new policy allowing non-core project costs to be included on SDWLP applications. The SDWLP financial assistance application form available for SFY 15 applications (due 6/30/2014) has been revised to allow for these costs.

The new policy will allow municipalities to include a limited amount of funding in their project budgets for items and activities that will contribute to the overall functionality or integrity of a drinking water system but fall outside of the core scope of the project being funded.

We will track requests for non-core project costs separately for the application budgets and on the funding list. SDW loan funds will first be allocated in project priority score order to eligible core project costs. Once allocations have been made for all eligible core project costs, we may then allocate funds for non-core project activities, again in order by project priority score.

Principal forgiveness will be calculated only on core project costs. No contingency will be allowed for non-core costs. Since the SDWLP will now allow non-core project activities to be identified at the time of application submittal, we will restrict the use of contingency funds to cover only those unanticipated costs associated with the construction of the core project.

Applicants will be limited to the following amounts when requesting funds for non-core project activities:

- Up to 5% of their core project costs are subject to the limits below:
 - If 5% of the core project costs are equal to or less than \$50,000, then a municipality may request up to \$50,000 for non-core project activities.
 - If 5% of the core project costs are greater than \$100,000, then the municipality may request no more than \$100,000 for non-core project activities.
- In no situation can the amount requested for non-core project activities exceed the cost of the core project.

More information about this policy can be found on the web at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/SystemWideCosts.pdf>

If you have questions regarding Non-core Project Costs, please contact Mary (E) Wagner at Marye.Wagner@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-7475.

Upcoming Deadlines

June 25th:

Deadline for SFY '14 SDWLP loan closing

June 30th:

Deadline for SFY '15 SDWLP applications as well as plans & specifications

Deadline for SFY '15 CFWP hardship applications

September 30th:

Deadline for SFY '15 CFWP principal forgiveness applications

Status Update: ITAs Online

The Environmental Loans staff is doing internal testing of the on-line system for submitting ITAs, anticipated to be available for next year's ITA submittals. In mid to late May, external testing will begin. We hope to test submittals from various firms and water/wastewater systems to ensure the process is smooth and performs without glitches. If you are interested in testing the on-line system for ITAs, contact Becky Mesdjian at Rebecca.Mesdjian@wi.gov. Before implementing the on-line submittal process for all projects, we want to catch and fix any glitches the on-line system and our database might have.

While we anticipate the on-line system for ITA submittal will go live for everyone this fall the PERF submittals will still need to be mailed to us.

We expect to have both the ITA and PERF on-line submittal process in place and working for everyone by fall of 2015, after the rule revisions have been completed and the scoring system changes programmed into the system. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress with this activity as we move forward.

If you have questions regarding the on-line system for submitting ITAs and PERFs, please contact Becky Mesdjian at Rebecca.Mesdjian@wi.gov or (608) 266-5888.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL CME PRIOR TO YOUR PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

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